licence for mining and prospecting mining in the country;

(b) whether Government have recently liberalised the conditions of licence;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that royalty on mining operations to the States differ from State to State; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Central Government propose to introduce uniform rate of royalty across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Prospecting licences or Mining leases can be granted to any person who is an Indian National or a Company as defined in Sec. 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 as per the provisions contained in Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 (MMR&D Act). The broad parameters as laid down in the Act are as under:

(i) For the minerals included in the First Schedule of the Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before the prospecting licence/mining lease is granted as per proviso to Section 5(1) of the MMR&D Act.

(ii) As per Section 6(1) (a) of the MMR&D act, one or more prospecting licence covering a total area to the extent of 25 sq.km. could be granted for the whole country. As per Section 7(1) and (2) of the MMR&D Act, the period for which a prospecting licence is granted does not exceed 3 years with a provision for renewals provided that the total period for which it is granted does not exceed 5 years.

(iii) Similarily, as per Section 6(1)(b) of the MMR&D act, the maximum area a person can acquire for mining lease in respect of any mineral or prescribed group of associated minerals is 10 sq. km. in the whole country. Section 8 of the MMR&D Act provides that mining leases are granted for a minimum period of 20 years and maximum period of 30 years. Provisions exist for renewal of a mining lease for a further period or periods not exceeding 20 years in each case.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government on 30.10.96 issued guidelines for grant of large areas for prospecting licences for carrying out aerial prospecting. Prospecting licence (PL) can now be granted to cover an area upto 5000 sq. km. for a single PL for aerial prospecting with a ceiling of 10,000 sq. km. for the whole country for a single company, subject to certain conditions relating to relinquishment of area over three years and physical and expenditure commitments.

(d) and (e) Royalty rates on major minerals are fixed by the Central Government and the rates are uniform for all the States. Royalty rates on minor minerals are fixed by the respective State Governments and may differ from State to State.

बहुमूल्य रत्नों वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान

2245. **श्री राम गोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईशदत्त यादव:

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ऐसे क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है जहां पर बहुमूल्य रत्नों के पाए जाने की संभावना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे क्षेत्रों की संख्या तथा नाम क्या है और वे किस राज्य में स्थित है;

(ग) क्या सरकार संबंधित क्षेत्रों में रत्नों के खनन कार्य को शुरू करने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अधिकारिक ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। विभिन्न राज्यों में बहुमूल्य रत्नों वाले जिन क्षेत्रों का जिन क्षेत्रों का पता लगाया गया है; वे निम्नानुसार हैं:—

रत्न	राज्य	क्षेत्र
हीरा	मध्य प्रदेश	1. पन्ना हीरा क्षेत्र, जिला पन्ना, छतरपुर तथा दामोह। 2. पयालीखंड-बहरादीह क्षेत्र, जिला रायपुर।
	आंध्र प्रदेश	1. वज्रकरूर किम्बरलाइट क्षेत्र, जिला अनन्तपुर। 2. बेंगानापल्ली कोंग्लोमेरेट, जिला कुरनूल। 3. कृष्णा नदी, प्रेवल्स, गुंटूर तथा कृष्णा जिले।
पन्ना	राजस्थान	1. बुबानी-मुहामी-राजगढ़ क्षेत्र, जिला अजमेर। 2. कालीगुमान-टेखी-गांव-गुडा क्षेत्र, जिला उदयपुर।
	उड़ीसा	1. जिला बोलनगीर।
रूबी	उड़ीसा	1. झिल्लींगधर क्षेत्र, जिला कालाहाण्डी
	आंध्र प्रदेश	1. जिला खम्माम।
एलेक्जेनड्राइट	केरल	1. जिला त्रिवेन्द्रम।
	मध्य प्रदेश	1. देवभोग क्षेत्र, जिला रायपुर।
नीलम (सैफाइअर)	जम्मू और कश्मीर	1. पाडर क्षेत्र, जिला डोडा।

(ग) और (घ) किसी भी राज्य में रत्नों का खनन-कार्य शुरू करने का भारत सरकार का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

कम्पनी अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 3 की उपधारा 1 में यथा परिभाषित कोई भी कम्पनी या भारतीय नागरिक खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 के प्रावधानों तथा उनके तहत बनाए गए नियमों के अनुसार खनन पट्टा प्राप्त करने के पश्चात् खनिज संसाधनों का विदोहन कर सकता है।

Limestone and Bauxite in Scheduled Minerals

2246. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat have sent a proposal for deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from the list of scheduled minerals shown in Scheduled I of MMRD ACT, 1957;

(b) if so, the detailed action thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from Schedule I of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and development) Act, 1957, has been considered by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with the Secretaries of some of the State Governments including the Government of Gujarat, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/Mining Leases. The